Issue 1089

K-STATE Research and Extension

Extension Agronomy

eUpdate

02/05/2026

These e-Updates are a regular weekly item from K-State Extension Agronomy and Kathy Gehl, Agronomy eUpdate Editor. All of the Research and Extension faculty in Agronomy will be involved as sources from time to time. If you have any questions or suggestions for topics you'd like to have us address in this weekly update, contact Kathy Gehl, 785-532-3354 kgehl@ksu.edu, or Dalas Peterson, Extension Agronomy State Leader and Weed Management Specialist 785-532-0405 dpeterso@ksu.edu.

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1. Late winter kochia control in fields going to soybeans, sunflowers, cotton, and wheat

This is the third and final article in a series discussing pre-emergence herbicides for kochia control. This week, we will discuss recommendations specific to fields planted to soybeans, cotton, or sunflowers this spring and wheat in the fall. Previous articles have discussed general considerations for late-winter kochia control (https://bit.ly/4rdhI3g) and pre-emergence herbicides for kochia control in fields that will be planted to corn or grain sorghum (https://bit.ly/4tdb3rC).

Fields going to soybeans

Start in February or early March with a tank mix of glyphosate (using a minimum of 0.75 lb ae/acre) or Gramoxone SL (minimum of 2 pts/acre) and 8 to 16 oz/acre of Clarity before kochia emergence. Clarity requires a minimum accumulation of 1 inch of rain and 28 days before planting soybeans, except for dicamba-tolerant soybeans. As indicated by the label, Clarity cannot be used as a pre-plant treatment in soybeans in areas with less than 25 inches of annual rainfall. Other dicamba-containing products may have different plant-back restrictions; consult the label if using one of them. Paraquat tank-mixed with metribuzin (Dimetric, others) will provide extended residual control of kochia as long as the kochia population is susceptible to triazine herbicides. Be aware of rate restrictions for metribuzin in western KS, as soil and environmental characteristics influence the potential for soybean injury following metribuzin.

Sulfentrazone-based products (Spartan, others) could also be considered for use prior to kochia emergence to manage an early flush. (Figures 1 and 2). However, it's important to note the crop rotation restrictions on these products. Pyroxasulfone (Zidua, Anthem) also has activity against kochia, though more rainfall is required for activation. Figure 1 illustrates the efficacy of various pre-emergence herbicide programs for controlling glyphosate- and dicamba-resistant kochia in Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans planted in no-till dryland fields at Hays, KS. These treatments were applied to emerged kochia on May 23. All treatments also included Roundup PowerMax.

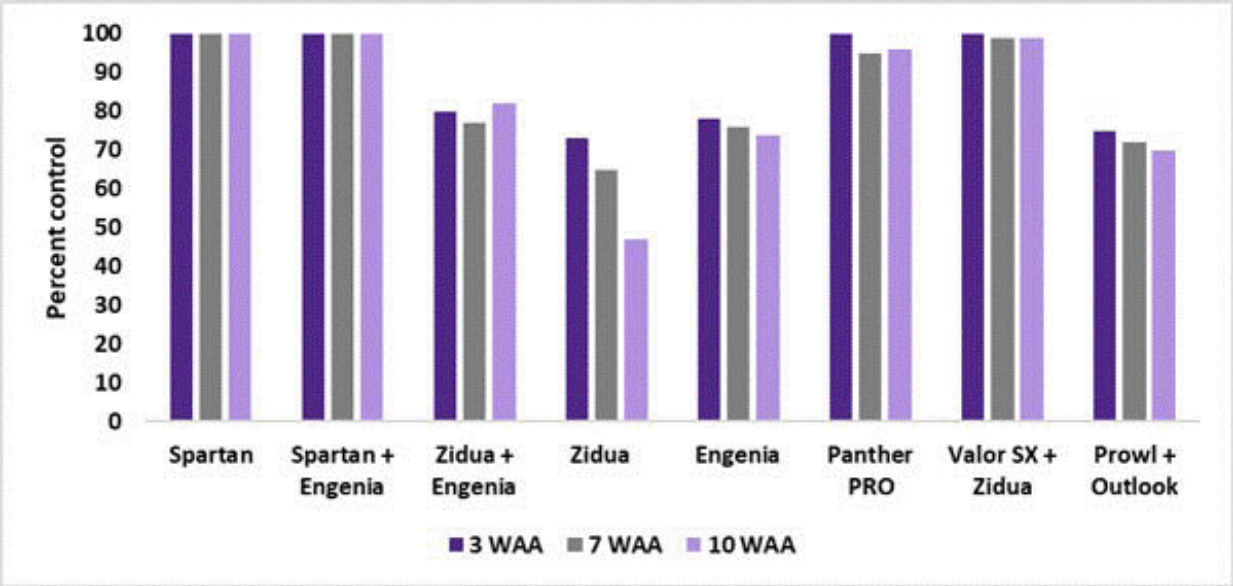

Figure 1. Kochia control following pre-emergence herbicide application in no-till dryland

soybean in Hays, KS (WAA= weeks after application). Note that Engenia is not labeled for use in 2025; other dicamba formulations can be substituted. Data collected by V. Kumar, K-State Research and Extension.

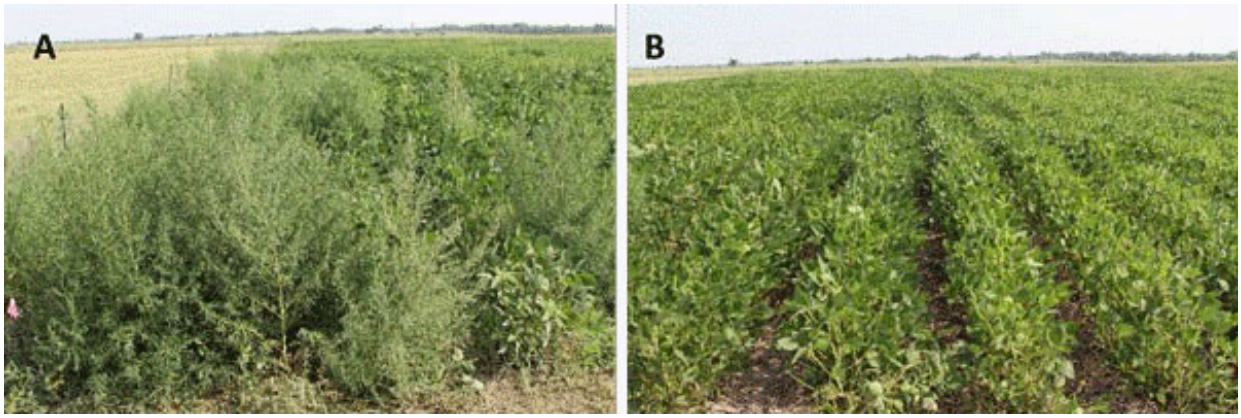

Figure 2. Kochia control in non-treated plot (A) and with PRE applied Spartan (B) in Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybean at 7 weeks after treatment (WAT). Photos by V. Kumar, K-State Research and Extension.

Fields going to sunflowers

Planting sunflowers into a clean seedbed is a key step to achieving good season-long control of all broadleaf and grassy weeds. But, it is especially important for getting good control of any weed populations, such as kochia, that are resistant to glyphosate or ALS-inhibiting herbicides and cannot be controlled with post-emergence herbicides in sunflower.

The best approach to control ALS- or glyphosate-resistant kochia in sunflower is to start in February or early March with a tank-mix of Gramoxone (using a minimum of 2 pts/acre) and Spartan, Spartan Charge (sulfentrazone+Aim), Broadaxe or Authority Elite (sulfentrazone+Dual Magnum), or Authority Supreme/Authority Edge (sulfentrazone+Zidua) before kochia begins to germinate. Select pre-emergence products that are effective on kochia and apply additional pre-emergence herbicides at planting to extend control of kochia and other weeds. Dicamba is not an option in these applications due to label restrictions. Monitor fields closely as additional Gramoxone SL treatments may be required prior to sunflower planting.

Fields going to cotton

Effective kochia control in cotton often requires a preplant application two to three months ahead of the typical May planting. Dicamba (Banvel, others) plus flumioxazin (Valor, others) applied in February prior to kochia emergence can be effective, and any cotton variety can be planted 30 days after application. Prometryn (Caparol) is also an option with some preemergence kochia activity, but a 12 month recrop restriction exists for all crops other than cotton (anytime) and corn (5 months). Should a burndown of kochia become necessary, Gramoxone should be used, along with an approved tank-mix partner such as Caparol, Cotaran (fluometuron), or Karmex (diuron).

Fields going to fall-planted wheat

If kochia is emerging in fields to be planted to wheat this fall, atrazine cannot be used. Metribuzin can substitute for atrazine and has a 4-month plant-back restriction to wheat. Additional products include Scoparia, Authority MTZ, and products containing sulfentrazone or isoxaflutole. Zidua also has good activity but requires significant rainfall for activation, so it should be applied with dicamba.

For more information on controlling kochia, see the 2026 K-State Chemical Weed Control Guide SRP-1194.

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2. K-State Soil Fertility Schools set for February 25–26

Producers and ag professionals are invited to attend the K-State Soil Fertility Schools, scheduled for February 25–26, 2026, with programs offered in Kearny, Meade, and Pratt counties. The schools will provide research-based guidance on soil fertility management, with presentations from K-State agronomy and soil science faculty and local extension agents.

Sessions will be held on February 25 in Kearny County (noon, lunch provided) and Meade County (6:00 p.m., supper provided), and on February 26 in Pratt County (10:00 a.m., lunch provided). Registration is required; see the flyer for details and contact information.

SOIL FERTILITY SCHOOL

February 25th & 26th 2026

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension

Speakers:

Lucas Haag, PhD
Associate Professor
Agronomist-in-Charge, Tribune

Augustine Obour, PhD
Professor, Soil Science

Jessica, Shelby & Jenna
Local Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agents

CONTACT US

Kearny : 620-355-6551

Meade : 620-873-8790

Pratt : 620-672-6121

FEBRUARY 25TH 2026

- **Kearny County - 12:00 PM - Lunch Provided**
  Kearny County Fairgrounds
  1482 Rd R, Lakin, KS 67860
- **Meade County - 6:00 PM - Supper Provided**
  Meade County Fairgrounds - Building B
  613 W Washington St, Meade, KS 67864

FEBRUARY 26TH 2026

- **Pratt County - 10:00 AM - Lunch Provided**
  Pratt Area 4-H Center
  81 Lake Rd, Pratt KS 67124

Register here!

This institution is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services, and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Language access requests and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, and American Sign Language), may be requested by contacting the event contact their location four weeks prior to the start of the event January 15th at the numbers above. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request. Kansas State University is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

3. K-State Weed Management Schools scheduled for February 16–20

K-State Extension will host a series of Weed Management Schools across northwest and north central Kansas from February 16–20. These programs are designed to provide producers, consultants, and ag professionals with practical, research-based updates on effective weed control strategies heading into the 2026 growing season.

Topics will include where *not* to cut costs on weed control, research updates on challenging weeds such as Palmer amaranth and kochia, and highlights from the 2026 K-State Chemical Weed Control Guide. Presenters include K-State Extension Weed Specialist Sarah Lancaster, K-State weed scientist Pat Geier, and K-State Northwest Area Agronomist Jeanne Falk Jones.

Meetings will be held on February 16 in Goodland, February 19 in Norton and Phillipsburg, and February 20 in Osborne. There is no cost to attend, but pre-registration is requested by February 11. More information and registration details are available at www.bit.ly/KSUWeedSchool.

K-State Weed Management Schools

Topics

- Where not to cut costs on weed control
- A research update on challenging weeds (Palmer amaranth, kochia and other)
- The 2026 K-State Chemical Weed Control Guide

Speakers

- Sarah Lancaster, K-State Extension Weed Specialist
- Pat Geier, K-State Weed Scientist at Garden City
- Jeanne Falk Jones, K-State Northwest Area Agronomist

There is no cost to attend. See specific location information at www.bit.ly/KSUWeedSchool

February 16	February 19	February 19	February 20
Goodland	Norton	Phillipsburg	Osborne
1:30-4:00 pm MT	9:30-12:00 pm	3:00-5:30 pm	9:30 - 12:00 pm
Sherman Co 4-H Building 417 N Main Ave, Goodland, KS	Norton Co 4-H Building 126 E Park Street Norton, KS	Phillips County Fair Building 1481 HWY 183 Phillipsburg, KS	United Christian Church 214 N 2nd St, Osborne, KS
Sunflower District 785-462-6281	Twin Creeks District 785-877-5755	Phillips-Rooks Dist 785-543-6845	Post Rock District 785-346-2521

Please register by Feb 11th
www.bit.ly/KSUWeedSchool

REGISTER NOW

K-STATE Research and Extension

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to physical, vision or hearing disability, contact Jeanne Falk Jones, K-State Agronomist for 785-462-6281.

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www.agronomy.ksu.edu | www.facebook.com/KState.Agron | www.twitter.com/KStateAgron

4. K-State Crop Talk webinar series kicks off on February 10

The popular K-State Crop Talk online webinar series is back and set to start on February 10, 2026. The Crop Talk series will highlight several topics important to crop producers in north central and northwest Kansas. Topics include flex leases, soil water availability, wheat breeding efforts on mosaic viruses, fungicides for corn and sorghum, and insect control. Continuing education credits will be offered, with one credit for each session.

Each webinar will begin at 12:00 pm (CST) and last until 1:00 pm, beginning with the first one on Tuesday, February 10.

Upon registration, participants will receive an email with instructions to attend via Zoom or YouTube. These virtual webinars are open to all and free. Register online at http://www.bit.ly/KSUCropTalk or call your local extension office.

A complete list of webinars, with dates, topics, and speakers, is detailed in the flyer below.

CROPtalk

Broadcast Live from 12:00 – 1:00 pm CT
via Zoom and YouTube

February 10
Understanding Flex Leases
Robin Reid, K-State Extension Ag Economist

February 17
Available Soil Water At Planting and Related Management
John Holman, K-State Extension Cropping Systems Agronomist
Augustine Obour, K-State Professor of Soil Science

February 24
Wheat Conditions & Breeding Efforts on Mosaic Viruses
Allen Fritz, K-State Wheat Breeder

March 3
Fungicide Applications in Corn and Sorghum
Rodrigo Onofre, K-State Extension Plant Pathologist

March 10
What's Bugging You? Insects to Watch for in the Field
Anthony Zukoff, K-State Entomologist

Register to attend at
www.bit.ly/KSUCropTalk

Scan me!

Links for joining will be sent after registration.
One Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Credit per session has been applied for.

Kansas State University
Extension

If you have questions, please contact your local Extension agent or the K-State Northwest Research and Extension Center at 785-462-6281.

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